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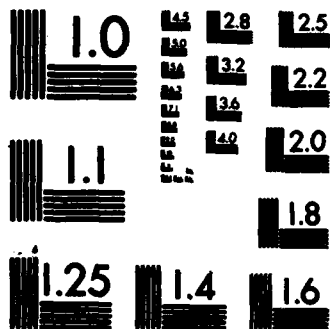
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FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT
ENERGETIC ION BEAM PLASMA INTERACTIONS

by

Russell Kulsrud

Sponsored by: Air Force Office of Scientific Research
Grant # AFOSR-83-0203

Plasma Physics Laboratory
Princeton University

March 9, 1984

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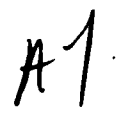
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I. ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The main effort of our group under these grants is to investigate the possibility of propagating a low density high energy ion beam a large distance across the ionosphere. The model used to investigate this question is described in the last final report and paper 3. Based on this model we conclude that, instabilities aside, it should be possible to accelerate an ion beam of sufficient current that its magnetic field will hold it together against various repulsive forces that it will not expand laterally and will indeed propagate a long distance.

Considerable effort was devoted to checking the accuracy of the numerical solution of the model. In particular an analytic solution, valid for the limiting case of a beam density small compared to the ionospheric density, was shown to give results consistent with those of the numerical solution, valid for ion beams of arbitrary density relative to the ionospheric density. This gave us confidence in the numerical solution.

A illustrative case of a beam that would propagate without radial expansion is one with parameters 10^5 beam ions/cm³, energy 100Mev/nucleon and radius 10^2 cm². We assume the ionospheric density is 10^5 electron/cm³. The angular divergence of the beam is .5 milliradians. The rise time of the beam from zero to full current need be longer than 0.5 μ sec corresponding to a beam length greater than 0.6km. For such a beam sufficient charge neutralization occurs that the self magnetic field of the beam can confine it against radial expansion and beam divergence. The beam if H⁺, would be bent into a circle of radius 100km by the earth's field. If it were Ne⁺, it would propagate in a radius of 2000km. This example is discussed in reference (3).

The theory was carried out assuming propagation perpendicular to the earth's field. In this case there was no current neutralization of the ions

by the charge neutralizing electrons so that the maximum confining magnetic field was produced. If propagation occurs at another angle, some neutralization will occur, but in most cases it is small enough that the beam is confined.

A preliminary investigation of the Weibel instability connected with electron motions showed that it probably does not occur because of finite geometry. The same holds for two-stream instabilities. It is planned to write these results up in the near future.

Our final conclusion from our research is that if energetic ion beams can be produced in space then they can be propagated a long distance.

II. PUBLICATION AND CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

1. "Propagation of Ion Beams Through a Magnetized Plasma" E. F. Chrien and R. M. Kulsrud (New York APS Meeting, November 1981) Bull Am Phys. Soc. 26, 871 (1981).
2. "Charge Neutralization of Ion Beams Propagating Through a Magnetized Plasma" E.F. Chrien, E. J. Valeo, R. M. Kulsrud, and C. R. Oberman.
3. Propagation of Ion beams Through a Tenuous Plasma E. F. Chrien, E. J. Valeo R. M. Kulsrud and C. R. Oberman Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory Report MATT 2100 and submitted to Physics of Fluids

III. PERSONNEL SUPPORTED

The persons supported by this grant during the period June 15, 1983 to January 15, 1984 were.

L. Chen

R. M. Kulsrud

C. R. Oberman

W. M. Tang

E. J. Valeo

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